

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 MC-02 AID-20 ACDA-19 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02

SY-10 PRS-01 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 241424Z OCT 73 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7985
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3874

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KU PFOR ASEC

SUBJECT: KUWAITI VIEWS ON MIDEAST PROBLEM; POSSIBLE

RENEWED GOK INTEREST IN PURCHASING US ARMS

SUMMARY: MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD BELIEVES MIDEAST PROBLEM CANNOT BE SOLVED IF PALESTINIANS IGNORED. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR SECDEF REP COL. HENRY TO REMAIN IN KUWAIT. SAME DAY, COL. HENRY CALLED KUWAIT ARMY HQ TO DISCUSS SALE TOW MISSILES. WE BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE OUR TALKS RE ARMS CAN BE RENEWED WITH KUWAITIS IN NEXT TEN DAYS OR SO. END SUMMARY.

1. MINDEF AND INTERIOR SHAIKH SAAD RECEIVED ME AT MIUISTRY OF DEFENSE OCT 24. I TOLD HIM WE MAINLY CONCERNED AT MOMENT WITH SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN KUWAIT AND WOULD APPRECIATE HIS LATEST READING ON THAT SUBJECT. SAAD REPLIED HE EXPECTED NO RPT NO TROUBLE IN KUWAIT AT ALL BUT OF COURSE WOULD ADVISE AMERICANS AVOID ANY

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UNNECESSARY EXPOSURE IN PUBLIC PLACES. (WE HAVE ALREADY DONE THIS.)

2. I ASKED SAAD ABOUT RUMORS WE HAD HEARD OF MAJOR KUWAITI CASUALTIES ON FIGHTING HDRONTS. SAAD DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH CASUALTIES, SAYING ONLY THAT KUWAITI SEARCH PARTIES WERE OUT LOOKING FOR "ABOUT 18 TO 20 SOLDIERS WHO ARE MISSING."

3. COMMENTING ON OFFICIAL STATEMENT YESTERDAY THAT GOK REMAINED OPPOSED TO RES 242 (THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOK POSITION), SAAD SAID DESPITE CEASE FIRE KUWAIT CONTINUED OBJECT TO ANY SUCH MIDEAST RESOLUTION THAT FAILED ADDRESS PROBLEM OF PALESTINAIANS. KUWAIT, HE SAID, RECOGNIZED RIGHT OF OTHER ARAB STATES TO HOLD OPPOSING POSITION, BUT IN GOK VIEW, MIDEAST PROBLEM WILL NEVER BE SOLVED UNTIL PALESTINIANS SATISFACTORILY ACCOMMODATED.

4. COMMENTING ON US POSITION IN MIDEAST, SAAD ASSERTED US HAD MADE "MANY MISTAKES", AND IT WAS PAST TIME FOR US TO RECTIFY THEM; OTHERWISE GOK WOULD BE FORCED TO FOLLOW OIL EMBARGO WITH FURTHER ACTIONS AGAINST US INTERESTS. IN REPLY I DREW FROM GUIDANCE CONTAINED STATE 209022.

5. I TOLD MINDEF I ASSUMED THIS NOT RPT NOT IDEAL TIME RESUME TALKS ON ARMS SALES BUT I DID WISH KNOW IF HE THOUGHT SECDEF REP COL HENRY SHOULD REMAIN IN KUWAIT OR RETURN TO CONUS. MINDEF REPLIED HE HOPED COL. HENRY WOULD REMAIN KUWAIT SINCE THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE WORK TO DO AFTER A FEW DAYS.

6. NOTE: AT ABOUT SAME TIME AS MY CALL ON MINDEF, COL. HENRY WAS CALLED OUT TO KUWAIT ARMY HQ FOR DISCUSSION OF TOW MISSILE.

7. COMMENT: WHILE ANY OPTIMISM THAT US ARMS SALES PROGRAMS ARE BACK ON TRACK ARE CLEARLY PREMATURE, IT APPEARS POSSIBLE OUR TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT CAN BE RENEWED SHORTLY AFTER POST-RAMADAN HOLIDAYS (I.E. IN ABOUT TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS). THIS ESTIMATE PRE-SUPPOSES, OF COURSE, THAT GENERAL SITUATION IS ON MEND AT THAT TIME. IT MAY BE THAT GOK IS STILL PUTTING ITS DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS ABOVE POLITICS. THAT IS, IF BEST WEAPONS COME FROM US, THOSE ARE ONES THEY WANT.
STOLTZFUS

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